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## Three Rare Philippine Birds

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The 1946-47 Zoological Philippine Expedition under the leadership of Harry Hoogstraal made a collection of some 2900 bird skins on the islands of Luzon, Mindanao and Palawan and in the Calamianes. This was a joint expedition under the auspices of the Chicago Natural History Museum and the Philippine National Museum. The collection was divided in the field and half of it came to the Chicago Natural History Museum in Chicago. In this material is represented three very rare species as follows.

### *Malaccocinda woodi* (Mearns)

Mindanao; at Meran on the east slope of Mt. Apo, at 5750 feet: 1 ♀ ad.; November 8, 1946.

Wing 82; tail 80; culmen 20; exposed culmen 15; tarsus 36; middle toe with claw 27 mm.

This has been considered the rarest bird in the Philippines, known from but a single specimen, the type, taken on Mt. Apo at Todaya, altitude 4000 feet and described as representing a new genus and species, *Leonardina woodi* (Mearns, 1905, p. 2). Hachisuka figured the species (1934-35, pl. 57) and Delacour included the monotypic genus *Leonardina* in *Malaccocincla* (1946, p. 15).

Through the kindness of Dr. H. Friedmann of the United States National Museum I have been able to examine the type of *Leonardina woodi*. It is a male and with a slightly longer wing than this second, female specimen (measurements of the type are: wing 88; culmen 20; tarsus 36; middle toe with claw 26 mm.; the tail is too incomplete to measure). Mearns has given a careful description of the type. This second specimen, in details of bill shape, rather scant rectal bristles, wing formulae and tail (apparently) agree very closely. The nostrils of the type are unsuitable for comparison; the new specimen shows them to be round, without an operculum. In measurements,

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size of claws, and booted condition of the tarsi the two specimens are *very* similar, but in anterior-posterior diameter of tarsus the type shows considerable thickening, the greatest measurement being 4 mm., while in the new specimen it is but 3 mm. This gives the tarsi of the recent specimen a much more slender appearance. Hachisuka's plate shows a very thick but short-legged and big-footed bird, accentuating the condition in the type. In color the old specimen is noticeably more reddish brown above, especially on the crown and foreback, the foreback of the recent specimen having an olive tinge to the brown; on the underparts the grey of the neck is more brownish in the old specimen, less clear grey. These are exactly what one would expect from "foxing" and the observed differences are attributed to this. Otherwise the two specimens are very similar, and evidently the sexes are alike in color. Hachisuka's plate gives a very good idea of the coloration, though somewhat too reddish brown.

Delacour has included *Leonardina* in *Malacocincla* and I am tentatively following his treatment, but it should be pointed out that *woodi*, compared with *M abbotti*, the genotype of *Malacocincla*, differs in having a relatively longer tarsus, shorter toes, a round rather than an oval nostril, and a more slender bill, more expanded basally. The ratios of wing : tarsus and middle-toe : tarsus are:

*woodi* — wing : tarsus 2.35; tarsus : toe 1.3 *abbotti* — wing : tarsus 2.96; tarsus : toe 1.19M

*. abbotti* looks like a bird that would frequent the shubbery, and its recorded habits bear this out; *woodi* looks like a bird that would live on the forest floor itself. Of its habits we have no information beyond that implied in the note "caught in rat trap baited with meat" on the back of the label.

### *Aethopyga primigenius* (Hachisuka)

*Philippinia primigenius* Hachisuka, Bulletin of the Biogeographical Society of Japan, vol. 11, no. 2, p. 6 (March, 1941)—type locality: Galog, 4000 feet, Mt. Apo, Mindanao. Mindanao: Mt. McKinley, 4800 feet: 2 d, 1 ♀; October 1, 2, 1946.

Measurements:	exposed				
	wing	tail	culmen	culmen	tarsus
male	53	36	21	19	15
	54	39	22	20	15.5
female	49	33	20	—	15

(Hachisuka gave the following measurements of the type, a male: wing 53; central tail 39; outer tail 28; length of skull 16; culmen from base 21; bill from nostril 16, tarsus 15.)

This is a very distinct species occurring along with *Aethopyga boltoni* in the Mt. Apo-McKinley area.

Besides the original description, based on four specimens taken at Galog, 4000 feet, and Faggamba, 8000 feet on Mount Apo, there appears to be only one other mention of this species in the literature. H. G. Deignan has called my attention to the description of the female of *A. boltoni* published by Mearns (1905, p. 5) and quoted by McGregor (1909, p. 645) which is apparently based on a female of this species, though the yellowish rump is not mentioned. This species was not included in Zimmer and Mayr's "New species of birds described from 1938 to 1941" (1943, p. 249-262), in Delacour and Mayr's 1946 "Birds of the Philippines," nor in Delacour's "A revision of the family *Nectariniidae* (Sunbirds)" 1944, due to the description not having been available. Copies of the original description are apparently very rare in this country, and it is only through the kind loan of a copy from Dr. E. Mayr that I have been able to see the description.

Hachisuka (1941, p. 5) erected a new genus, *Philippinia*, for this species, based on the following:

"Bill curved downwards, considerably longer than head (proportionally longer than *Aethopyga* and *Cinnyris*). Tail considerably shorter than wing, as in the case of *Cinnyris* but strongly graduated like *Aethopyga*, yet the central pair is not much longer than the next pair, and not elongated like *Aethopyga*; each tail-feather is narrow and the tip tapers like *Aethopyga*, but it is wide [as] in the case of *Cinnyris*. In color, it has no metallic tinge except at the forehead and about the ear-coverts. Rump is yellow like *Aethopyga* and *Eudrepanis*. Genus *Philippinia* differs from *Eudrepanis* by having longer bill and graduated short tail.

"The present genus shows a link between *Aethopyga* and *Cinnyris*, and it may be looked upon as a primitive type of *Aethopyga* without long tail-feathers and practically no metallic tinge."

There is no doubt that this species is a very distinct one, but it seems hardly necessary to provide a genus separate from *Aethopyga* on the basis of the slightly longer bill. In reduction of metallic coloration it is about the same as *A. boltoni*, though it is otherwise less brilliant. The relative length of the tail has little value, as *A. duyvenbodei*, with a short, rounded tail, is closely related in general color pattern to the long-tailed *A. shelleyi*. The structure of the tongue is unknown. It seems best to consider this a primitive member of the genus *Aethopyga*, and list it before *A. boltoni*, with which, however, it shows no especially close relationship.

As the original description is available to few, the species is re-described as follows: a primitive member of the genus *Aethopyga*, generally dull in color, grey, olive green, white, and yellow, with iridescence, occurring in the male only, restricted to a small patch in the ear coverts and the edges of the feathers of the forehead; cutting edges of both maxilla and mandible distinctly serrated, easily visible under a six power glass; feathers of sides of lower back somewhat elongated and silky, about as in *A. boltoni*; feathers of lower flanks

also somewhat elongated; first primary about one-half as long as second; tail strongly graduated but central rectrices not elongated nor narrowed, central rectrices about 13 mm. longer than the lateral pair; color, male adult, feathers of forehead slate with narrow iridescent green edgings; rest of top of head slate, the feathers with narrow green edgings; hind neck greyish slate, also sides of head and neck except for a small area of purplish green iridescence on the ear coverts; back and wing coverts olive green; upper tail coverts similar but slightly paler; rump bright yellow; throat and upper breast slate grey, little paler than sides of head, with a light line of irregular whitish streaking down its center from chin; breast greyish white, paling to white on the abdomen; sides of body, and flank tufts and crissum bright yellow. Under wing coverts and axillaries pure white; remiges blackish; the secondaries broadly, the primaries narrowly edged externally with olive green like the back, except toward the tip; on the inner edges remiges basally edged with whitish. Rectrices blackish, narrowly edged with olive green externally except the central pair that are washed with olive green throughout; the outer rectrices are also broadly tipped with white, the central pair are indistinctly tipped with grey, and the intermediate ones have the outer web tipped with grey and the inner web tipped with white.

The female is similar, but lacks the iridescent areas; the throat is paler grey, without the faint white streaking in its center; and the yellow rump is only indicated.

Color of soft parts, in skin; bill black; feet black.

*Erythrura viridifacies* **Delacour and Hachisuka**

Luzon, Abra Province, Massisiat, 3500 feet: 2 c?, 1 ♀; May 14, 16, 1946.

Wing ♂ 59, 60; ♀ 58; tail, ♂ 44, 50; ♀ 36; exposed culmen, m 9, 10, ♀ 9.5; tarsus 14 mm.

These are the first specimens to be collected since this species was described on the basis of cage birds in 1937.

Delacour and Hachisuka (1937 a, b) have named and figured this parrot finch and given a review of its brief, scanty history. It became known to science through a mass importation of captive specimens in 1936 while still undiscovered in its native haunts.

The species is now known from the vicinity of Manila and, through the present collection, from northern Luzon.

The male agrees well with the original description and plate (allowing for the plate being generally too brightly colored) with only minor discrepancies; the under wing coverts being brownish buff, rather than grey; one male has the under tail coverts washed with red. The female differs con-

siderably from the description and the published figure; the tail is somewhat more pointed than the plate shows; the upper tail coverts are tipped with dull red, and the upper side of the rectrices are washed with dull red, like the male but duller (differing considerably from the orange yellowish of the plate); the whole underparts are pale greenish, nearly uniform, and somewhat duller and paler than in the male; the under tail coverts are buffy tinged greenish (this differs considerably from the extensive buffy of the underparts of the plate).

The original suggestion that the species inhabited long grass, paddies, and marshy ground is not substantiated by the data on the field labels that read "feeding on bamboo seeds in flocks of 6 — 10."

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